

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23043

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, FR, UR

SUBJECT: FURTHER FRENCH SOCIALIST VIEWS OF PS/CPSU
TALKS

REF: A. PARIS 21444; B. MOSCOW 11708

1. VARIOUS PS SENIOR OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PARTY'S JULY 31 REVIEW OF THE TALKS HAVE SHED SOME FURTHER LIGHT ON ZAGLADIN'S ASSERTION (REPORTED REF A) THAT BREZHNEV TOLD POLITBURO THAT CPSU WOULD HAVE NO INTEREST IN FURTHER ECPC-STYLE MEETINGS.

2. DURING THE SOCIALISTS' REVIEW, PS "FOREIGN MINISTER" PONTILLON, READING FROM NOTES, REPEATED THE ASSERTION AND WAS IMMEDIATELY ASSAILED BY CULTURAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY TADDEI AND BY UNNAMED DEPUTY IN ATTENDANCE WHO ARGUED THAT BREZHNEV'S ECPC SPEECH (AS NOTED REF B) AMOUNTED TO CONFIRMATION OF THE UTILITY OF CERTAIN KINDS OF MULTILATERAL MEETINGS.

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THE PS NUMBER TWO COMMUNIST WATCHER, LIONEL JOSPIN,

IS SAID TO HAVE TAKEN THE FLOOR TO SAY THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH SOVIET EMBASSY CONTACTS HERE IN PARIS AND HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF ZAGLADIN'S MESSAGE TO PONTILLON REPRESENTED THE PARTY'S CURRENT THINKING ON ITS FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN MULTINATIONAL MEETINGS. HOWEVER, JOSPIN WAS AT PAINS TO SAY THAT HIS SOVIET SOURCES HAD NOT CONFIRMED THE ALLEGATION THAT BREZHNEV ANNOUNCED THIS LINE TO THE POLITBURO. PONTILLON, FEELING HIMSELF BELITTLED, IS SAID TO HAVE EXPLODED IN ANGER AND IS ALLEGED TO HAVE RE-READ AN EXTENSIVE QUOTE FROM ZAGLADIN WHICH CONFIRMED THE BREZHNEV STORY.

3. THE PS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WHICH WOULD NORMALLY WELCOME A CHANCE TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE TRIP, STILL HAS NOT--PARTLY AS A RESULT OF THE ACRIMONY BETWEEN JOSPIN AND PONTILLON--MADE ANYTHING MORE THAN AN AIRPORT DECLARATION.

4. WE OFFER THE ABOVE FOR WHATEVER USE IT MAY BE TO INTERESTED READERS AS PUZZLED AS WE--AND THE PS--SEEM TO BE ON THIS QUESTION. THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE PS BELIEVES, WHETHER BREZHNEV GAVE THE WORD TO THE POLITBURO OR NOT, THAT THE CPSU WILL ESCHEW LARGE MULTILATERAL MEETINGS WITH THE WESTERN PARTIES IN THE FUTURE.
GAMMON

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